

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Appl. No. 09/935,711
Attorney Docket No. Q65953

REMARKS

In the present Amendment, Claim 9 has been rewritten to be an independent claim.

Claims 2, 12, 13, 23, 25, 31, 33 and 34 have been amended to change their dependency.

Claim 12 has also been amended for clarity.

Claims 35-38 have been added as new claims. These claims are supported by the specification, for example, at page 3, lines 9-15.

Claims 1, 8 and 16-20 have been canceled.

No new matter has been added, and thus entry of the present Amendment is respectfully requested. Upon entry of the Amendment, Claims 2, 3, 5-7, 9-15 and 21-38 will be all the claims pending in the application.

Applicants note with appreciation that Claims 5-7, 21, 22, 24, 27-30 and 32 are allowed.

In Paragraph No. 5 of the Office Action, Claim 1 has been objected to for alleged informalities.

Applicants respectfully submit that this objection is moot, because Claim 1 has been canceled.

In Paragraph No. 7 of the Office Action, Claims 23, 25, 26, 31, 33 and 34 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite.

Applicants respectfully submit that the amended claims are not indefinite. As described above, Applicants have in the present Amendment, amended Claims 23, 25, 31, 33 and 34 to change their dependency. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

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In Paragraph Nos. 2 and 13 of the Office Action, Claim 8 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Hu et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,057,048).

Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is moot, because Claim 8 has been canceled.

In Paragraph No. 10 of the Office Action, Claims 1-3 and 11-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Forrest et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,310,360) in view of JP 8-78163, a newly cited reference.

Applicants respectfully submit that the amended claims are patentable over Forrest et al. As indicated above, Applicants have in the present Amendment, canceled Claims 1 and 16-20. Applicants have also amended Claims 2, 12 and 13. The amended claims depend primarily or secondarily, from allowed Claim 6. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

In Paragraph No. 11 of the Office Action, Claims 9 and 10 have been objected to as allegedly being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

In response, Applicants have in the present Amendment, rewritten Claim 9 (and thus its subsequent dependent Claim 10) in independent form, as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the objection.

Applicants respectfully submit that the newly added Claims 35-38 are patentable, because each of these claims depends from allowed Claim 6 or allowable Claim 9.

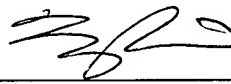
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

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Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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